

ABSTRACT

THIS IS A REPORT OF PHASE III ARCHÆOLOGICAL data recovery at a prehistoric site along the proposed course of Scarborough Road in the city of Dover, Kent County, Delaware. Blueberry Hill proved to be well preserved in spite of intrusions from cultivation and construction. After Phase II investigation was completed, the site was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Full data recovery was undertaken.

The excavation provided evidence for changing site utilization from Paleo times to the present. Æolian forces helped to isolate the small artifact deposits that resulted from infrequent episodes of site habitation. By using very small excavation units, it was possible to delineate these small deposits and isolate them from the sterile matrix.

Because activity areas were separated vertically and horizontally, it was possible to distinguish changes of site function through time. The sparse and temporary nature of prehistoric occupations are evidence that this was a procurement site, but the resource being exploited changed through time.

As the highest elevation of the site moved with the shifting dune, the center of activity shifted with it; an enduring preference for summit locations was demonstrated. Internal organization of the site included a preference for campsites very close to the crest of the hill, suggesting that many more sites may be found within a few meters of bluffs overlooking floodplains.

Specialist contributions included soil analysis, pollen studies, geomorphology, water screening, and radiocarbon dating.